

NISDP IS YOUR PATH TO FREEDOM- GOV BINDOW

In the face of soaring youth unemployment coupled with growing realisation that Governments cannot provide everything including jobs for all, participants in the 5th phase of the National Industrial Skills Development Programme (NISDP), have been charged to view the opportunity as their path to freedom.

Flagging off the Programme in Yola recently, Governor of Adamawa state, Senator Umar Jubrilla Bindow, urged the 500 trainees to view their participation in the NISDP, which is organised by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) to equip Nigerians especially the youth with skills for employability, as a blessing.

Senator Bindow, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Engineer Martins Babale, therefore admonished the participants to be committed throughout the 3 months training noting that remarkable achievements cannot be accomplished with half hearted efforts.

He lauded the ITF for selecting the State among the 18 states to benefit from this phase of the Programme, stressing that it was indication that normality had returned to the state that witnessed a turnover of leadership for some years.

The Governor reaffirmed the determination of the State to empower citizens through skills acquisition; efforts, he noted, had earned the State plaudits from the Presidency.

In his welcome address, the Acting Director-General of the ITF, Mr Dickson Onuoha called on Nigerians to support President Buhari's drive for rapid industrialisation and economic diversification in order to avert economic difficulties owing to over-dependence on crude oil export.

Mr Onuoha disclosed that the NISDP, which is a skills acquisition programme especially, targeting the youth, was initiated in 2012 and had trained 74,000 nationwide in its first four phases.

He said the 5th Phase rolled out simultaneously in 18 States including Adamawa State where 500 youth drawn from the three senatorial districts of the State were being trained in four centres in aluminum doors and windows construction, beads making and domestic electrification.

The Acting DG explained that the trade areas were chosen based on projected value addition to the citizens of the State and their potential to provide sustainable means of livelihood for the trainees on graduation and therefore urged the trainees to be committed to the training.

Commending the determination of the State government to youth empowerment as exemplified by the establishment of Technical skills Centres, payment of stipends to NISDP trainees and the provision of starter packs to some trainees in previous phases,

Mr Onuoha called for greater synergy from stakeholders noting that without such collaborations the objectives of the NISDP would not be realised.

Zonal Director, North-East and ITF Head of Internal Audit, Alhaji Ahmed El-Kyari urged stakeholders including the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria, the Bank of Industry and State Governments to meet ITF's expectation of them especially as it related to provision of loans to trainees and value orientation of the youth towards vocational education

Alhaji El-Kyari advised the participants to be good ambassadors of their families and the ITF during the programme.

The flag-off was witnessed by top Government officials including the Speaker of the Adamawa State House of Assembly, the Secretary to the State Government and other Government functionaries.